

# **Bicycle** MCDOT

Maricopa County  
Department of Transportation

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## **New Year's Resolutions**

- Ride a bike** to work.
- Ride a bike** to the store.
- Ride a bike** to the movies.
- Ride a bike** to a park.
- Ride a bike** to a friend's house.
- Ride a bike** with a friend.
- Ride a bike** just for fun.



## **Name the Trail**



The Maricopa County Trail Commission is asking for your help to select a name for the Regional Trail System. Four names have already been suggested, but we want your ideas. The leading candidates so far are:

- Maricopa Trail
- Maricopa Interconnected Trail System (MITS)
- Mountain Vistas Trail
- Desert View Trail

A web site is under construction right now that will allow you to submit your choice on line. In the meantime, you can send your recommendations to:  
[reedkempston@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:reedkempston@mail.maricopa.gov)

The Maricopa County Regional Trail System Plan is being developed by staff from several County departments. They include MCDOT, Parks and Recreation,

Planning and Development, and FCDMC. Public meetings will be held in January to solicit comments, suggestions, and ideas for where and how to connect White Tank Regional Park, Lake Pleasant, and Cave Creek Recreation Area with a trail. The meetings will take place on January 29 at Peoria City Hall and January 31 at Ben Avery Shooting Range. Both will run from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and be an open house format.

For more information about the Maricopa County Regional Trail Plan visit [www.maricopa.gov/trail](http://www.maricopa.gov/trail) or contact Reed Kempton at 602-506-1630 or [reedkempton@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:reedkempton@mail.maricopa.gov)



### Segway Human Transporter

The Segway HT, code name Ginger, was introduced to the public in December. Able to travel for 15 miles at a max speed of 12 mph, the device is being billed as "...the first enhancement to personal travel that fully integrates the user in the pedestrian world." Will it replace walking as a mode of travel? Will it take the place of a bike? Will it be legal to ride it on a path or in a bike lane? Who knows? It does look fun to ride. Visit the official web site and check out this unique transportation device. The other two links provide a more humorous look at Ginger's potential.

<http://www.segway.com/consumer/>  
[http://www.theonion.com/onion3745/infograph\\_3745.html](http://www.theonion.com/onion3745/infograph_3745.html)  
<http://cagle.slate.msn.com/news/GingertheScooter/>



**These club cyclists were sighted early one Saturday morning enjoying the Valley's winter weather.**

## Designing Sidewalks and Trails for Access, Part 2

The Federal Highway Administration recently published Part II of their best practices design guide for sidewalk and trail access. Hard copies are available by faxing a request to: FHWA Report Center, 301-577-1421. If you would like 5 or more copies, please fax your request to the DOT Warehouse, 301386-5394. Include your street address (no PO Boxes), city, state, zip and phone number with your request. Watch the Program's website for the appearance of the electronic version:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped>

## Bicycle Quote

*Get a bicycle. You will not regret it if you live.*

**Mark Twain, *Taming the Bicycle***

In the early 1880s Mark Twain learned to ride a high-wheel bicycle. *Taming the Bicycle* is an account of his experience. You can read it on line at:

<http://users.telerama.com/~joseph/bike1.html>

## MCDOT Bicycle Program

For a copy of the MCDOT Bicycle Transportation System Plan, visit:

[www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/bicycle/bike.htm](http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/bicycle/bike.htm)



## A Time for Reflection

This has been a tough year. The September 11 attack on our country made us all realize how vulnerable we are and how quickly our lives can change. The images of the plane crashing into the World Trade Center and the collapse of the Twin Towers will remain with me forever. In the aftermath of such tragic devastation and loss of life, I questioned the importance of my daily duties and wondered if I should be doing something more important. That thought lasted only a moment, however, as another image from this year came back into focus. It was the sight of a crumpled bicycle lying against a curb. Its young rider, attempting to cross a busy arterial street, was hit by a car turning out of a commercial driveway.

When the 2001 statistics are released, I expect we'll find that nearly 42,000 people were killed in motor vehicle accidents in the United States. Almost 700 were riding bicycles and more than 4500 were pedestrians. Over three million people were injured as a direct result of motor vehicle collisions.

I start 2002 with a renewed determination to make our streets safer for all of us. We should be able to drive to work, bicycle to the grocery store, or walk to the movies without being killed or maimed. To be successful, I need your help. I need you to drive cautiously, ride on the right, and look both ways before you cross the street. Slow down when you approach an intersection. Don't drink and drive. Stop for red lights. With a little luck, cities won't need more ambulances, trauma centers will be less crowded, fewer children will use crutches, and memorial services for our friends will be less frequent. *-Reed*

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